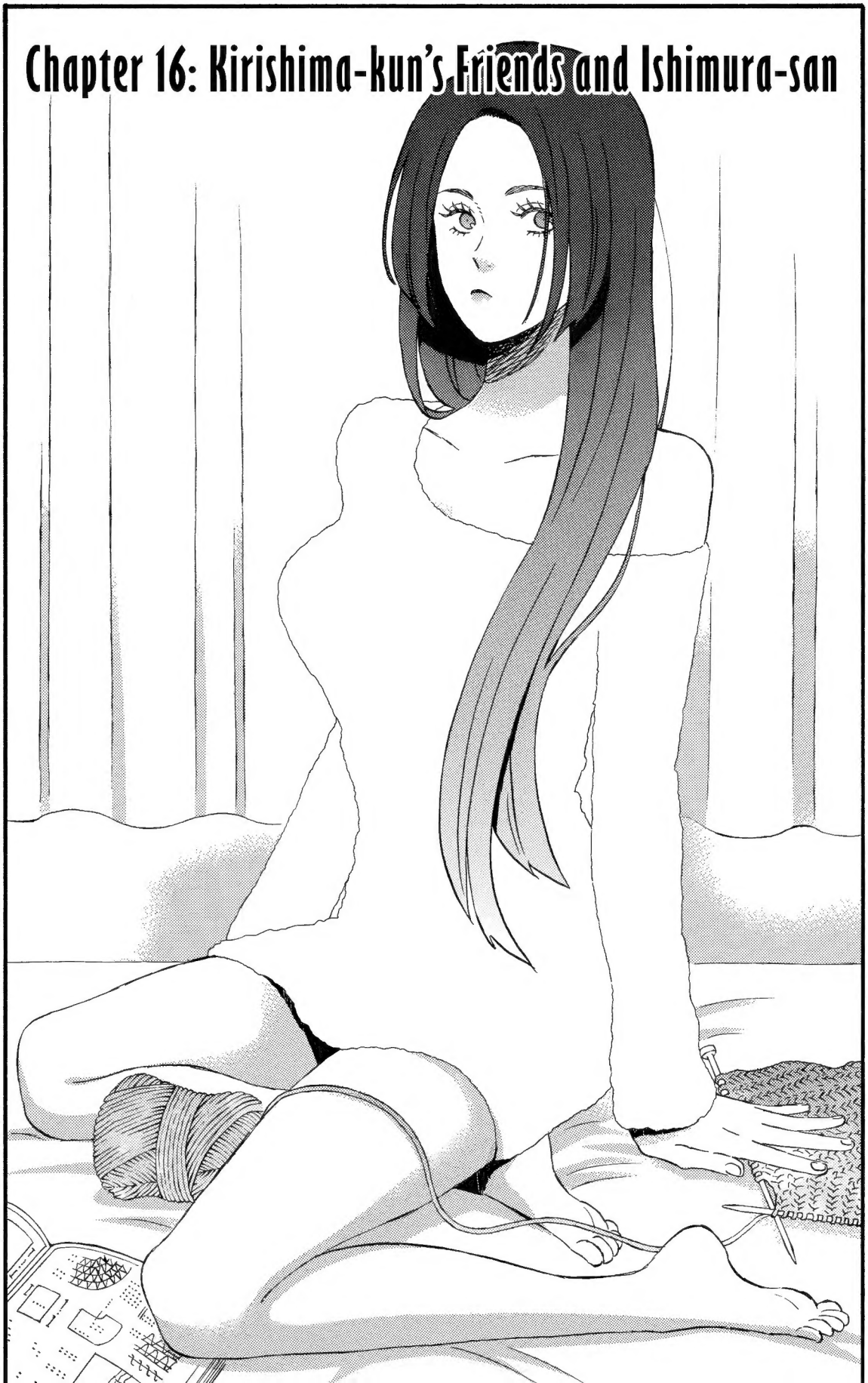
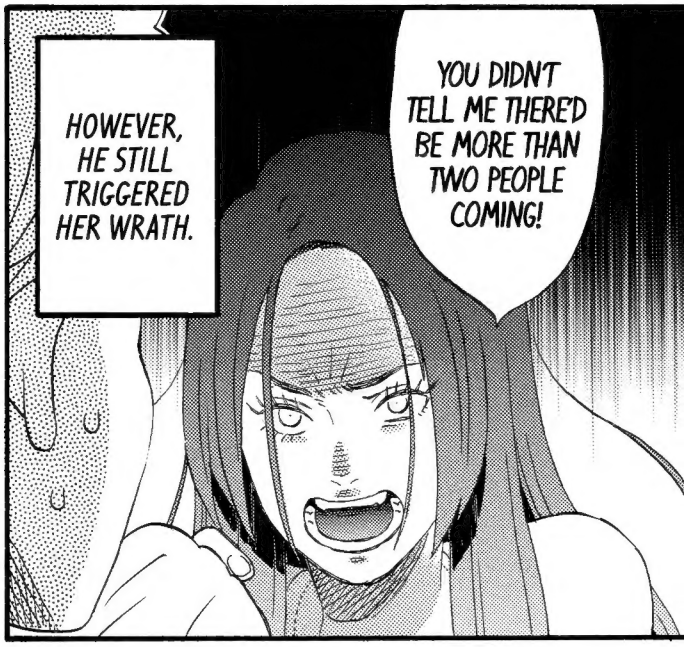
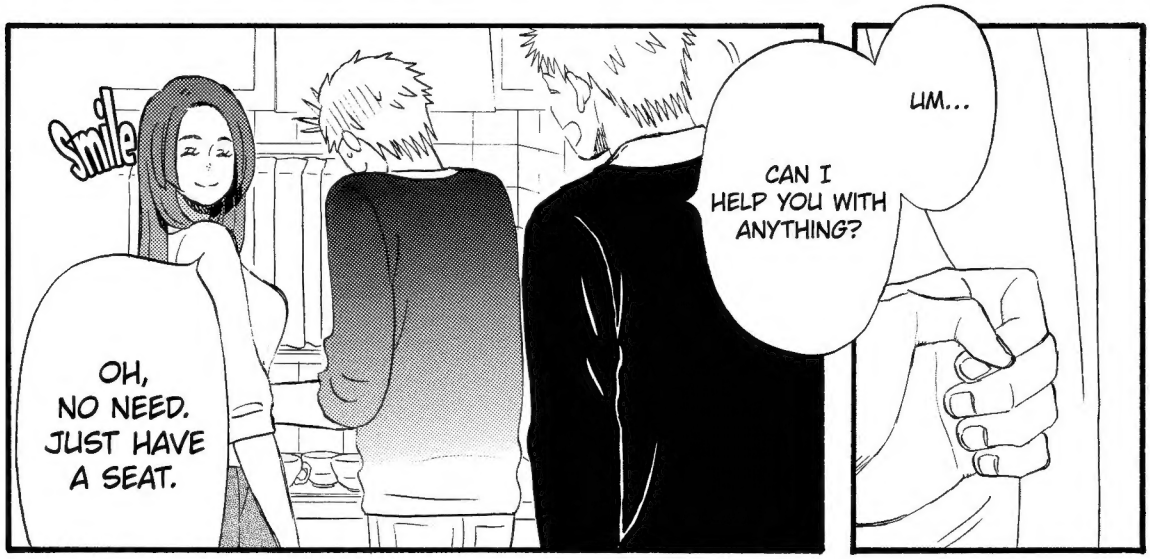
Chapter 16: Kirishima-kun's Friends and Ishimura-san



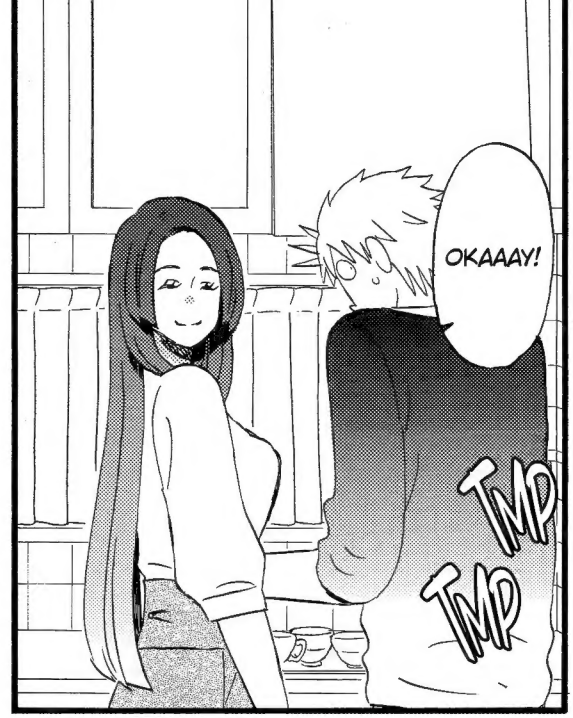
PREVIOUSLY ON LA LA LA...
KIRISHIMA-KUN WANTED TO SHOW OFF HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE TO HIS FRIENDS FROM COLLEGE...
SO HE INVITED THEM OVER AFTER GETTING THE APPROVAL FROM ISHIMURA-SAN.
Hello!

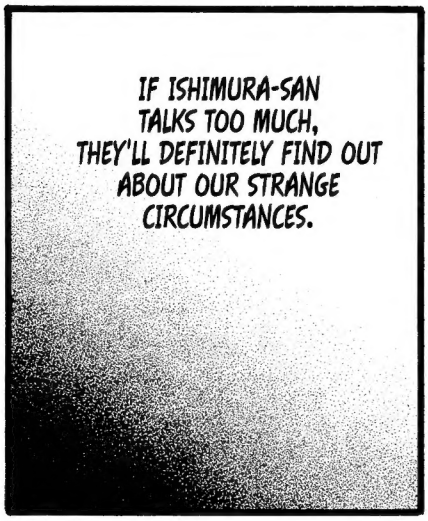
ONCE ALL YOUR FRIENDS LEAVE, YOU BETTER BRACE YOURSELF.
WE'RE HAVING A SERIOUS TALK. ONE THAT CONTEMPLATES DIVORCE.
THE THREAT OF DIVORCE IS IN THE AIR.

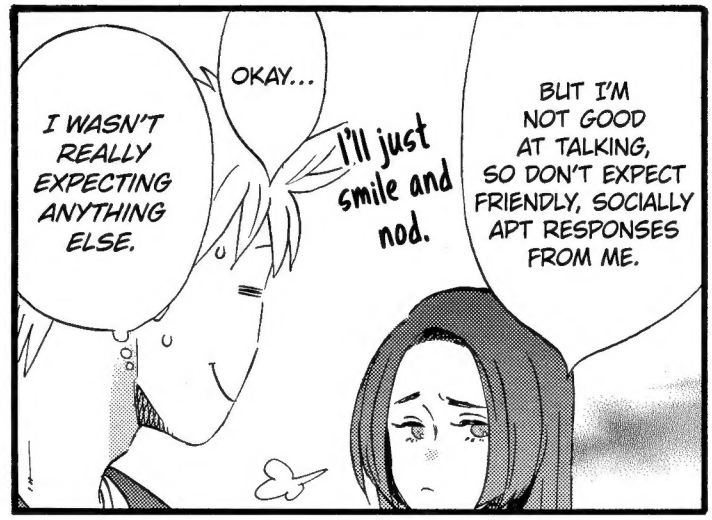

YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THERE'D BE MORE THAN TWO PEOPLE COMING!
HOWEVER, HE STILL TRIGGERED HER WRATH.


UM...
CAN I HELP YOU WITH ANYTHING?
Smile
OH, NO NEED. JUST HAVE A SEAT.

I DID PROMISE, SO I'LL SPEND THE DAY WITH YOU ALL.
... ANYWAY,

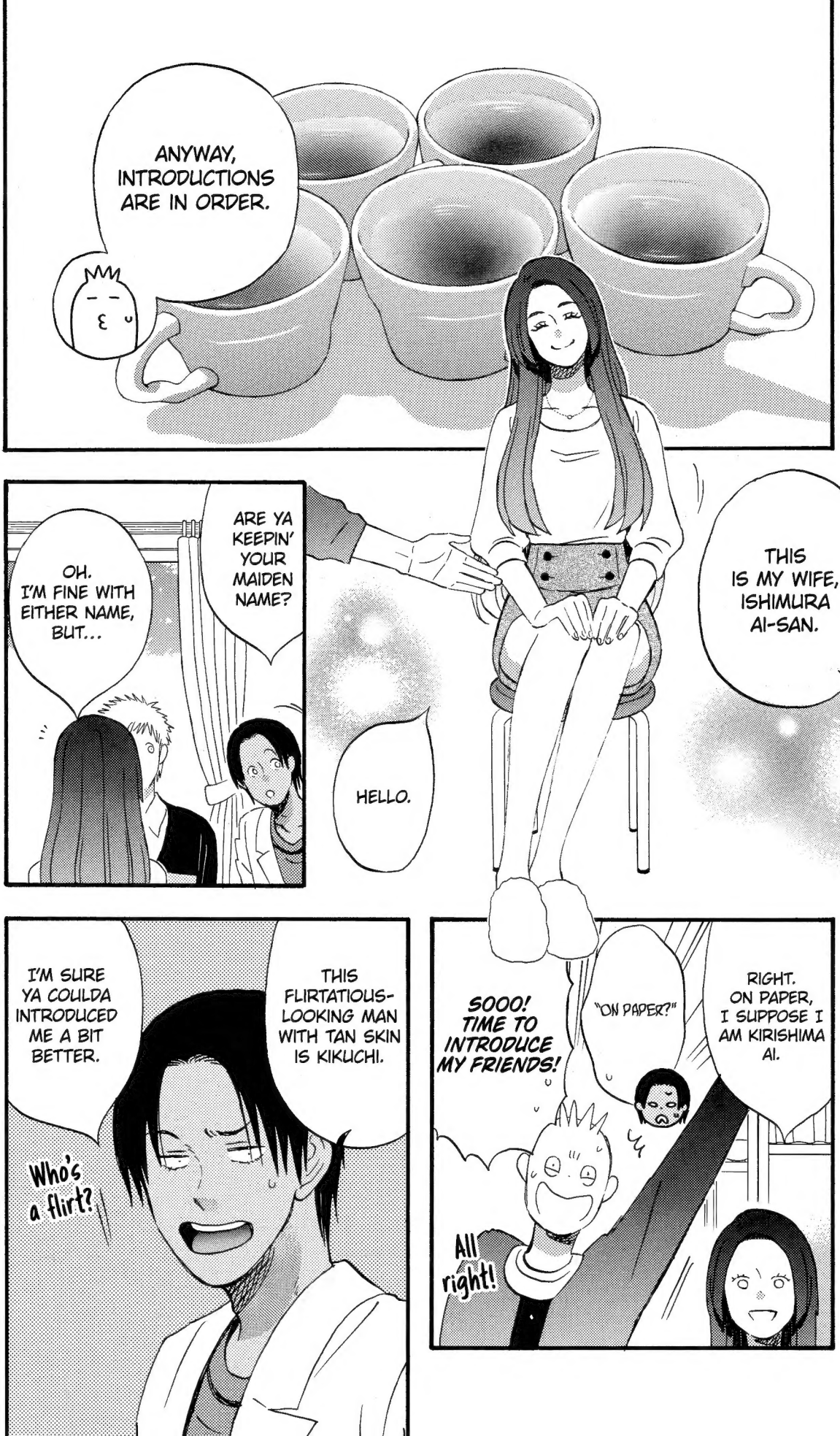

OKAAAY!
TMP
TMP

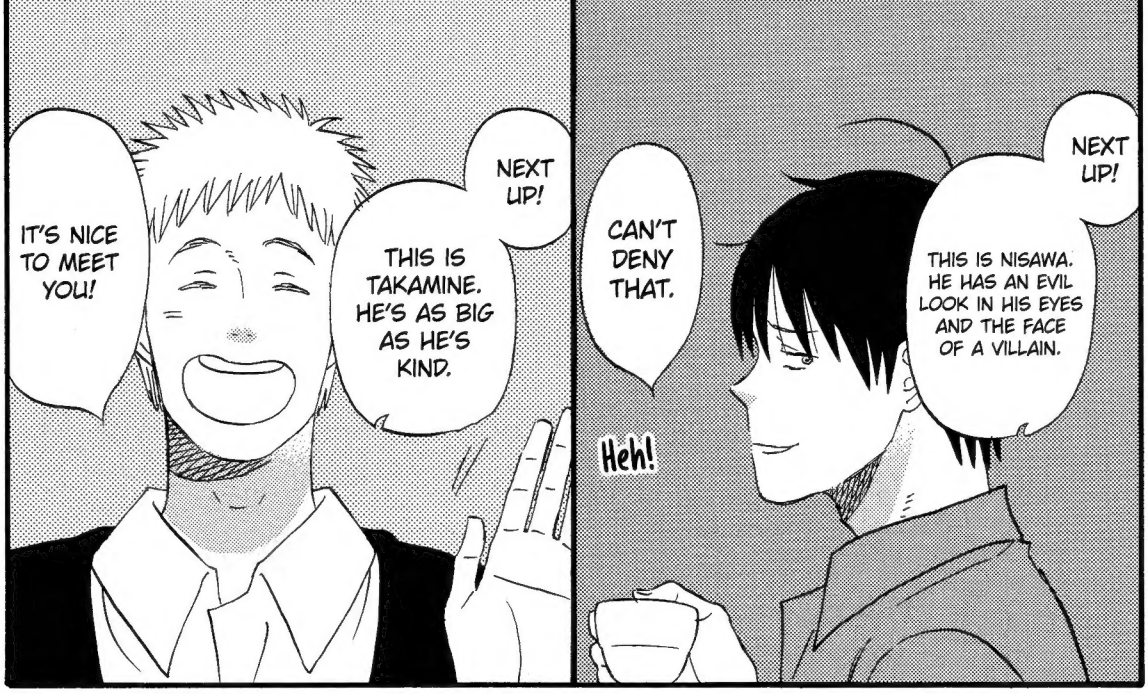

IF ISHIMURA-SAN TALKS TOO MUCH, THEY'LL DEFINITELY FIND OUT ABOUT OUR STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES.

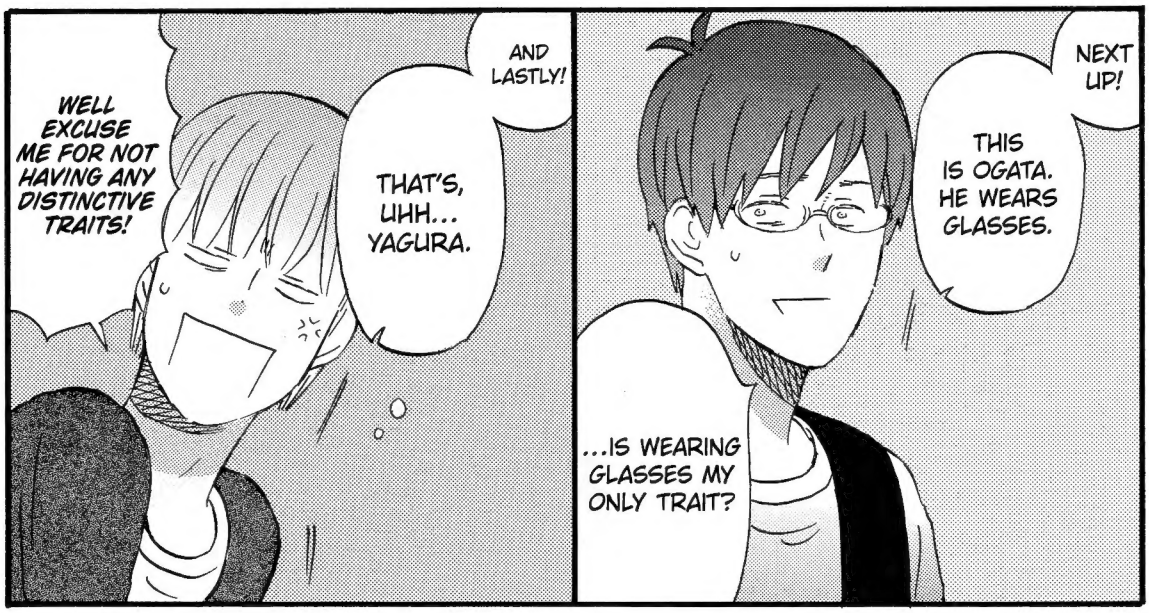

I WASN'T REALLY EXPECTING ANYTHING ELSE.
OKAY...
I'll just smile and nod.
BUT I'M NOT GOOD AT TALKING, SO DON'T EXPECT FRIENDLY, SOCIALLY APT RESPONSES FROM ME.

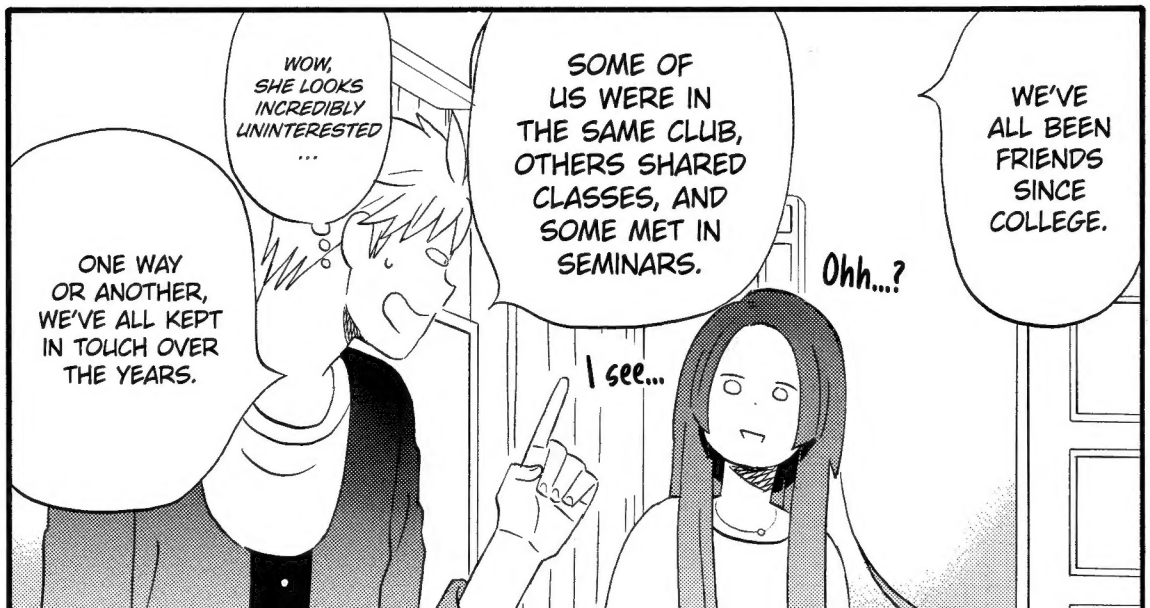
I'M NOW HOPING THEY NEVER LEAVE.
Ughh...

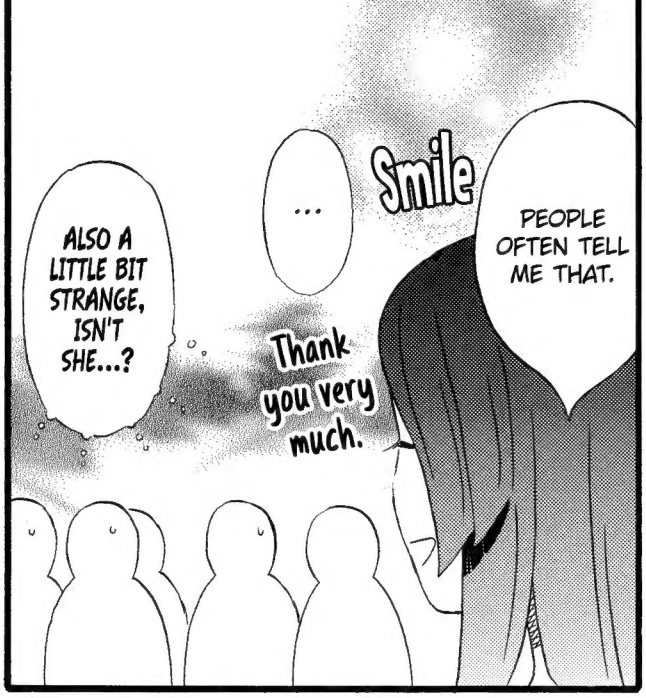
WE'RE HAVING A SERIOUS TALK. ONE THAT CONTEMPLATES DIVORCE.
I WANTED TO MAKE THIS MEETING AS BRIEF AS POSSIBLE AND QUICKLY SEND THE GUYS HOME, BUT...

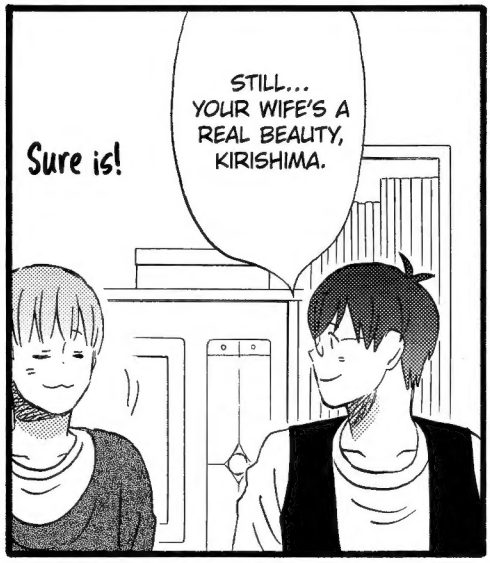

ANYWAY, INTRODUCTIONS ARE IN ORDER.
THIS IS MY WIFE, ISHIMURA AI-SAN.
HELLO.
ARE YA KEEPIN' YOUR MAIDEN NAME?
OH. I'M FINE WITH EITHER NAME, BUT...
RIGHT. ON PAPER, I SUPPOSE I AM KIRISHIMA AI.
"ON PAPER?"
SOOO! TIME TO INTRODUCE MY FRIENDS!
All right!
THIS FLIRTATIOUS-LOOKING MAN WITH TAN SKIN IS KIKUCHI.
I'M SURE YA COULDA INTRODUCED ME A BIT BETTER.
Who's a flirt?

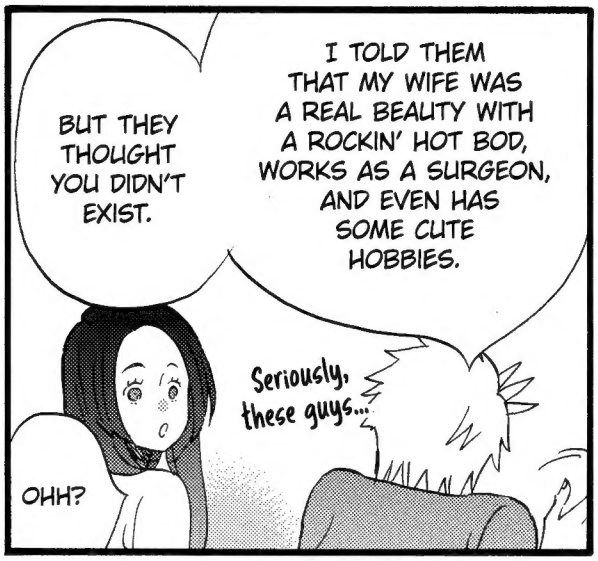

NEXT UP!
THIS IS NISAWA. HE HAS AN EVIL LOOK IN HIS EYES AND THE FACE OF A VILLAIN.
CAN'T DENY THAT.
Heh!
NEXT UP!
THIS IS TAKAMINE. HE'S AS BIG AS HE'S KIND.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU!

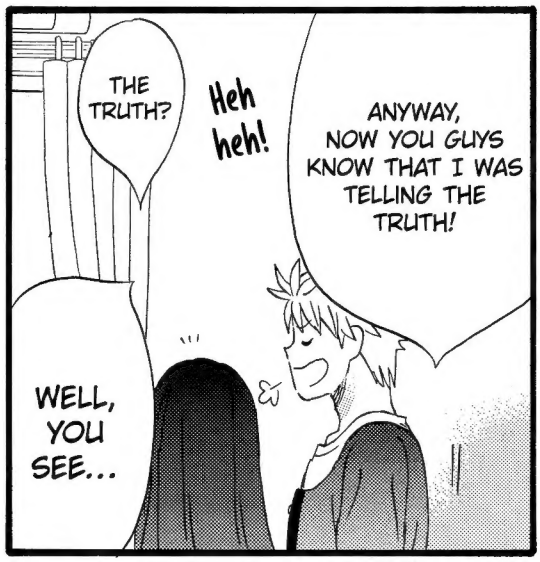

NEXT UP!
THIS IS OGATA. HE WEARS GLASSES.
...IS WEARING GLASSES MY ONLY TRAIT?
AND LASTLY!
THAT'S, UHH... YAGURA.
WELL EXCUSE ME FOR NOT HAVING ANY DISTINCTIVE TRAITS!


WE'VE ALL BEEN FRIENDS SINCE COLLEGE.
Ohh...?
SOME OF US WERE IN THE SAME CLUB, OTHERS SHARED CLASSES, AND SOME MET IN SEMINARS.
I see...
WOW, SHE LOOKS INCREDIBLY UNINTERESTED ...
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE'VE ALL KEPT IN TOUCH OVER THE YEARS.


ALSO A LITTLE BIT STRANGE, ISN'T SHE...?
...
Smile
Thank you very much.
PEOPLE OFTEN TELL ME THAT.


Sure is!
STILL... YOUR WIFE'S A REAL BEAUTY, KIRISHIMA.


BUT THEY THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T EXIST.
I TOLD THEM THAT MY WIFE WAS A REAL BEAULTY WITH A ROCKIN' HOT BOD, WORKS AS A SURGEON, AND EVEN HAS SOME CUTE HOBBIES.
Seriously, these guys...
OHH?

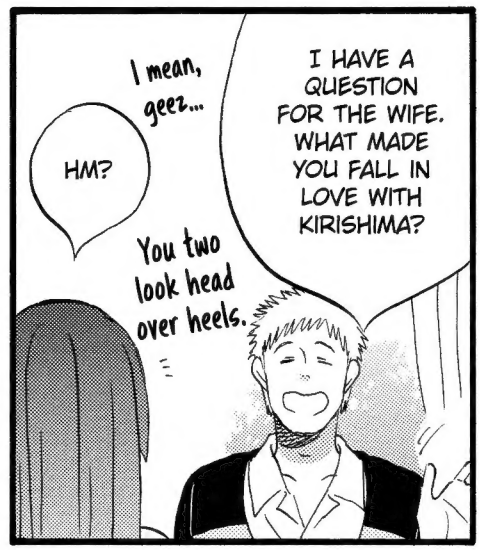

THE TRUTH?
Heh heh!
ANYWAY, NOW YOU GUYS KNOW THAT I WAS TELLING THE TRUTH!
WELL, YOU SEE...

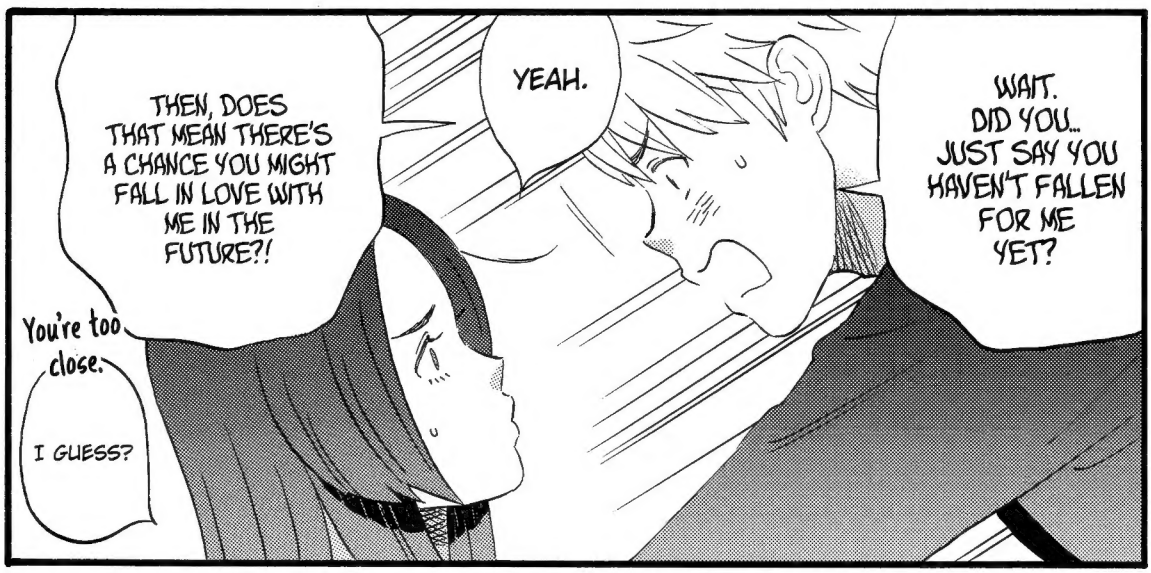
HUH...? WELL, UH...
PLEASE DON'T REPEAT IT...
YOU TOLD THEM ...
THAT I'M A REAL BEAUTY WITH A ROCKIN' HOT BOD WHO WORKS AS A SURGEON AND HAS CUTE HOBBIES?

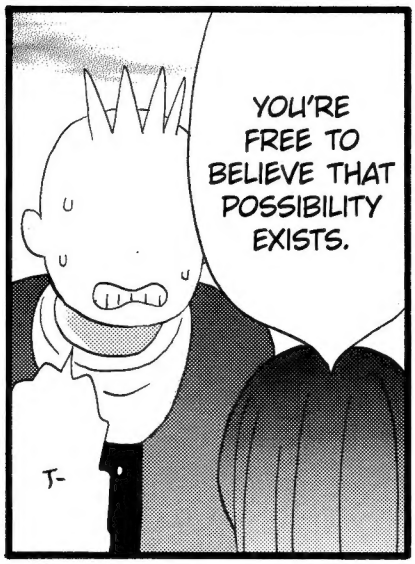
HUH?
IS THAT WHAT YOU SAID TO THEM, KIRISHIMA-KUN?

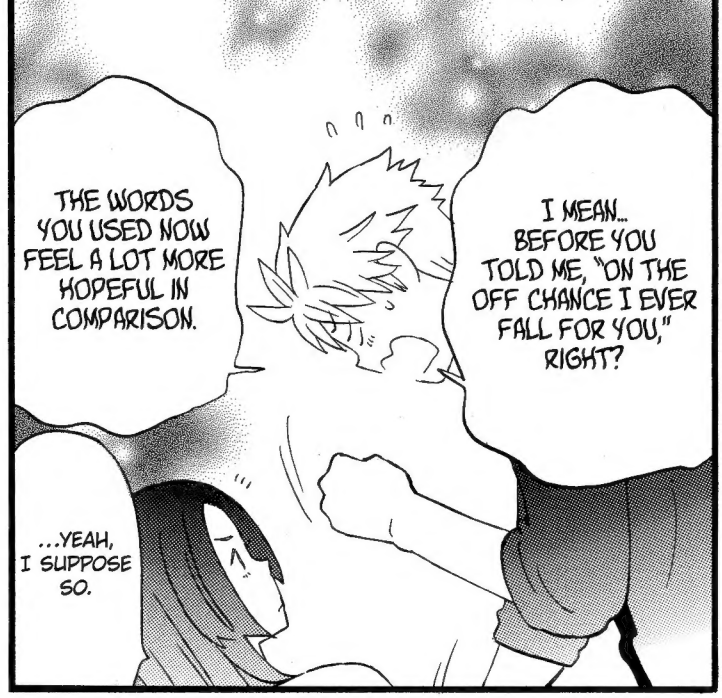
Yeah.
They look happy together. Good for them.
WE'RE MARRIED, RIGHT?! THAT'S FINE...!
I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED, IS ALL.
WELL, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU LIKED ME THIS MUCH.

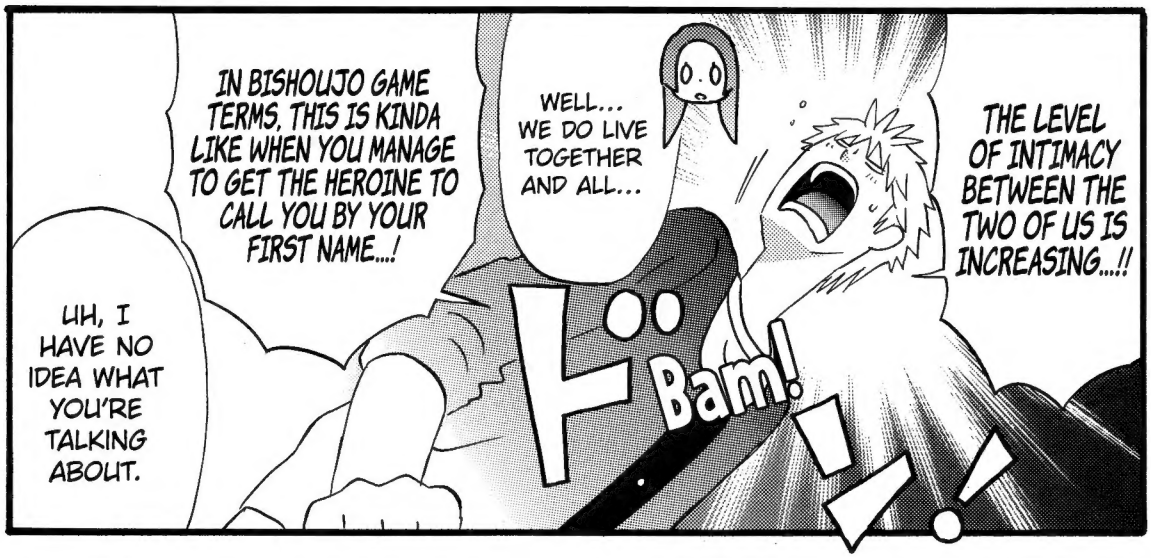
HEY...! ISHIMURA-SAN...?!
WHAT...?
Ishimura-san, the type who always answers questions honestly
I HAVEN'T REALLY FALLEN FOR HIM YET...

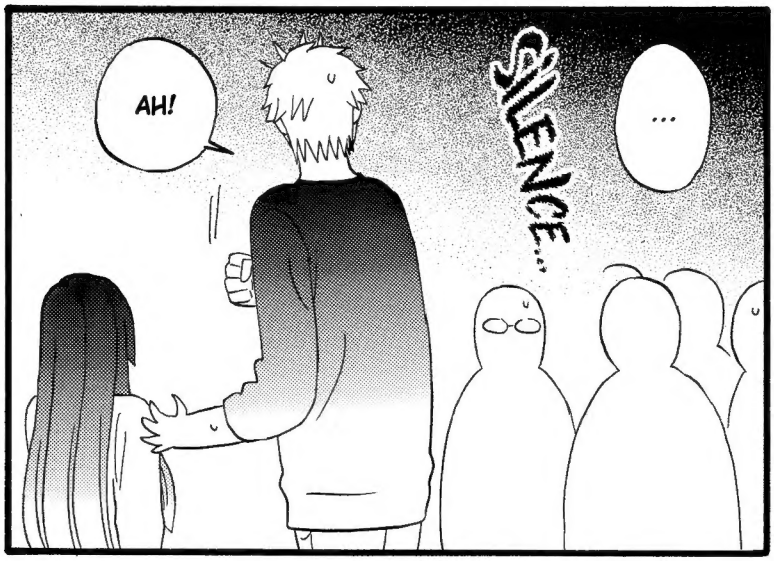

I mean, geez...
HM?
You two look head over heels.
I HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE WIFE. WHAT MADE YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH KIRISHIMA?

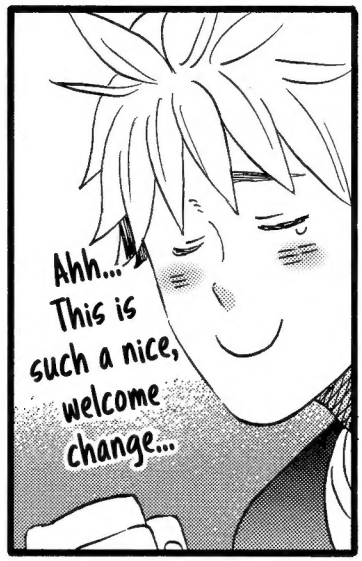

THEN, DOES THAT MEAN THERE'S A CHANCE YOU MIGHT FALL IN LOVE WITH ME IN THE FUTURE?!
YEAH.
WAIT. DID YOU... JUST SAY YOU HAVEN'T FALLEN FOR ME YET?
You're too close.
I GUESS?


YOU'RE FREE TO BELIEVE THAT POSSIBILITY EXISTS.
T-

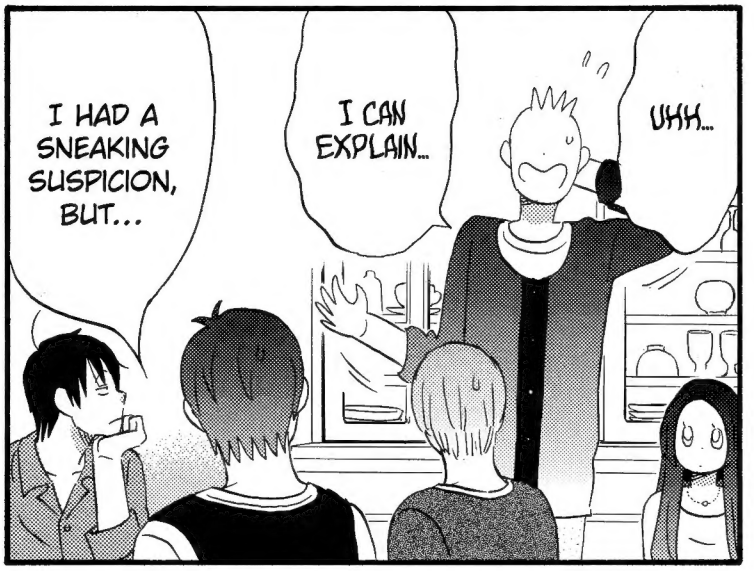

THE WORDS YOU USED NOW FEEL A LOT MORE HOPEFUL IN COMPARISON.
I MEAN... BEFORE YOU TOLD ME, "ON THE OFF CHANCE I EVER FALL FOR YOU," RIGHT?
...YEAH, I SUPPOSE SO.

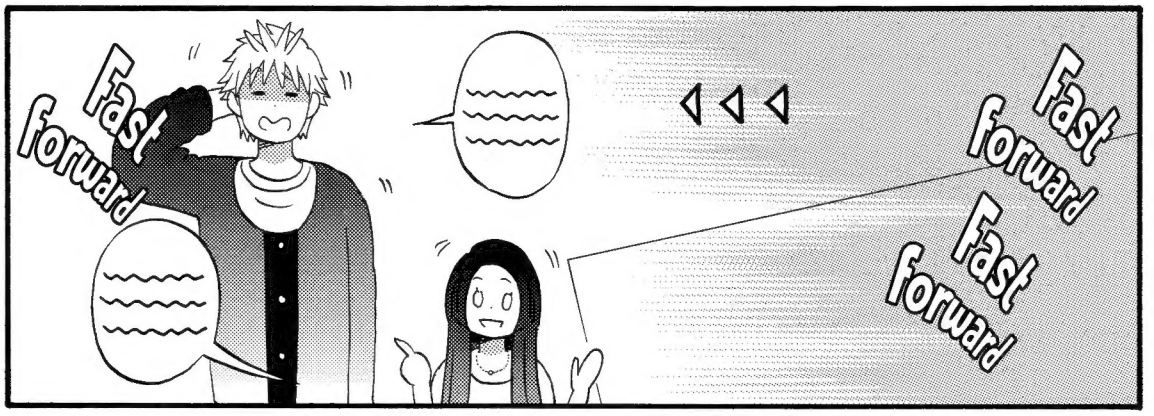

IN BISHOUJO GAME TERMS, THIS IS KINDA LIKE WHEN YOU MANAGE TO GET THE HEROINE TO CALL YOU BY YOUR FIRST NAME...!
WELL... WE DO LIVE TOGETHER AND ALL...
THE LEVEL OF INTIMACY BETWEEN THE TWO OF US IS INCREASING...!!
UH, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
Bam!

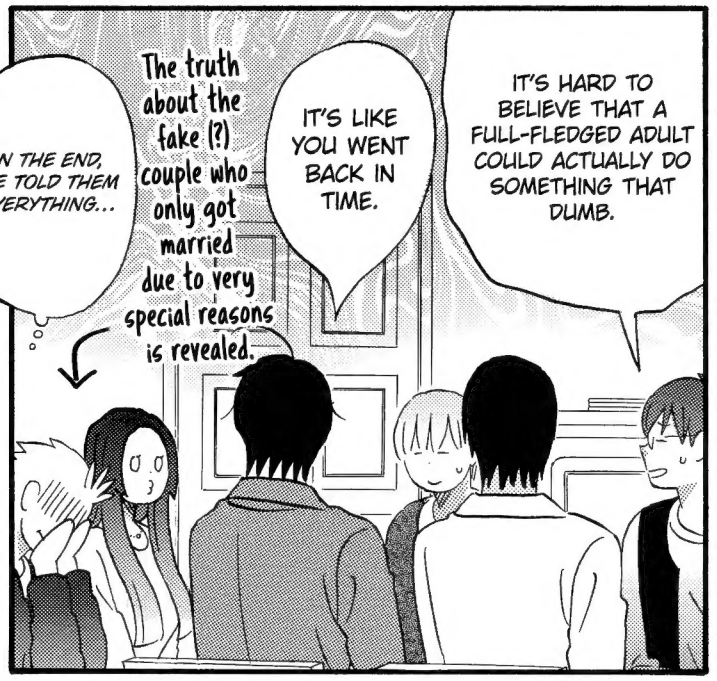

AH!
SILENCE...
...


Ahh... This is such a nice, welcome change...

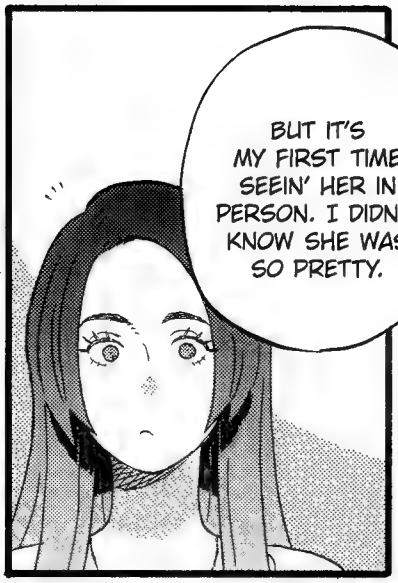
YOU GUYS AREN'T REALLY A NORMAL COUPLE, ARE YOU?
SEEMS FISHY.
UHHH... WELL, I...

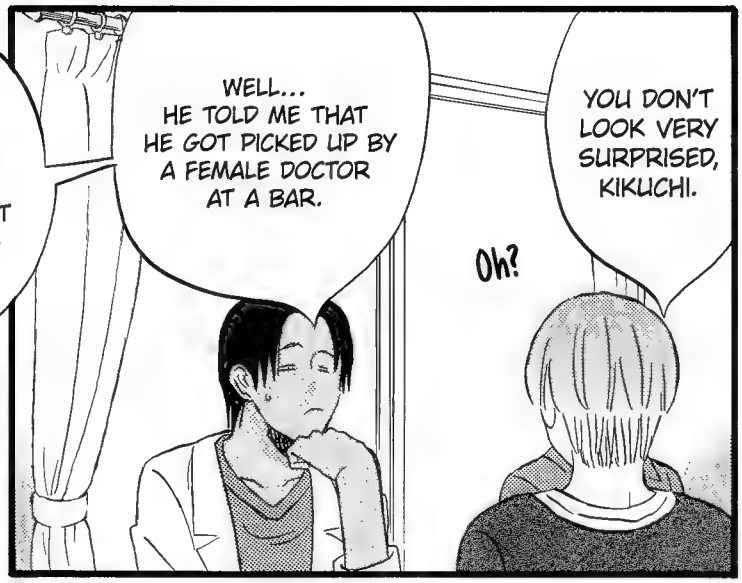

I HAD A SNEAKING SUSPICION, BUT...
I CAN EXPLAIN...
UHH...


Fast forward
Fast forward
Fast forward

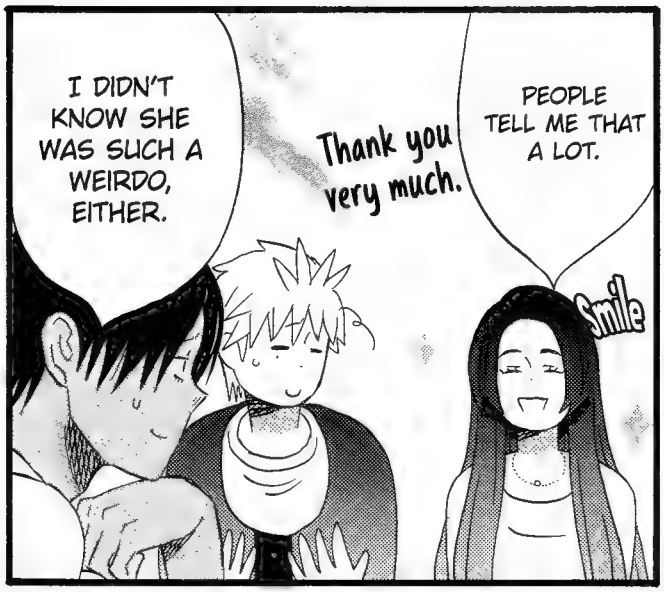

IN THE END, WE TOLD THEM EVERYTHING...
The truth about the fake (?) couple who only got married due to very special reasons is revealed.
IT'S LIKE YOU WENT BACK IN TIME.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT A FULL-FLEDGED ADULT COULD ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING THAT DUMB.

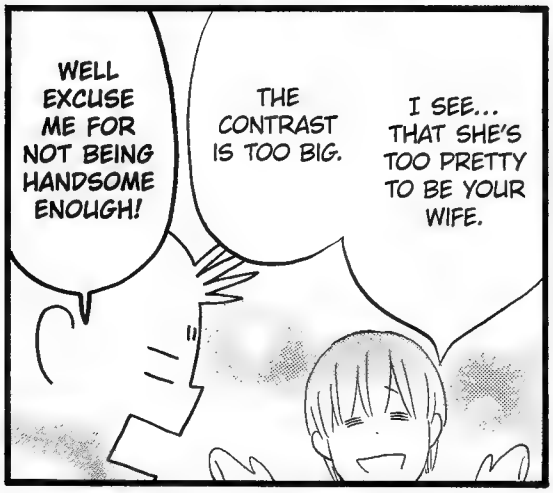
BACK IN OUR STUDENT DAYS WE ALL DID A LOT OF STUPID THINGS, BUT...
...YOU KNOW...

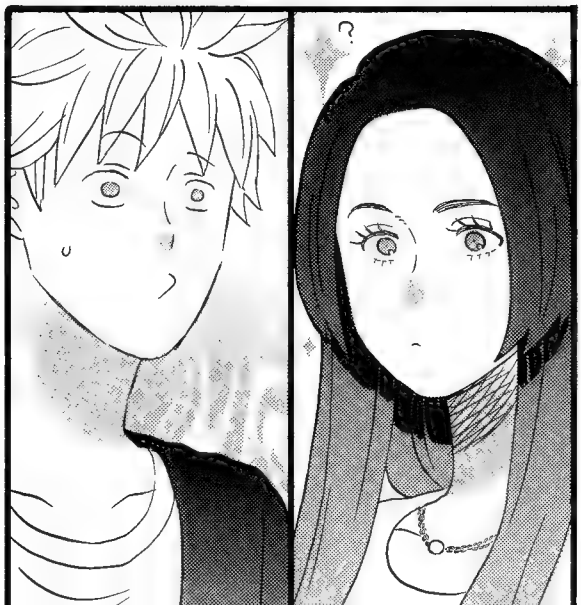

BUT IT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEIN' HER IN PERSON. I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS SO PRETTY.


WELL... HE TOLD ME THAT HE GOT PICKED UP BY A FEMALE DOCTOR AT A BAR.
YOU DON'T LOOK VERY SURPRISED, KIKUCHI.
Oh?

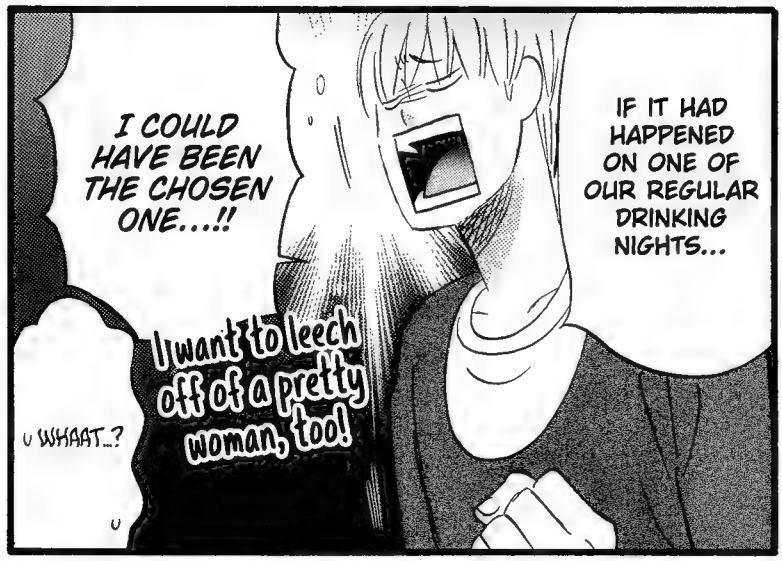
...WHAT?
STILL, I GET IT. I SEE IT, ALL RIGHT.


I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS SUCH A WEIRDO, EITHER.
Thank you very much.
PEOPLE TELL ME THAT A LOT.
Smile


WELL EXCUSE ME FOR NOT BEING HANDSOME ENOUGH!
THE CONTRAST IS TOO BIG.
I SEE... THAT SHE'S TOO PRETTY TO BE YOUR WIFE.

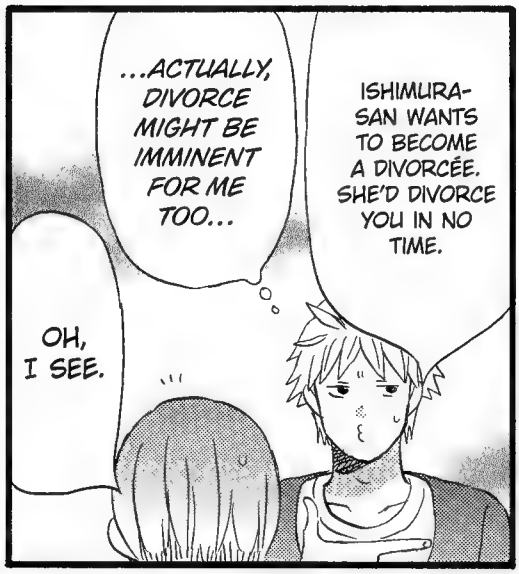


THAT BEING SAID, WASN'T KIKUCHI WITH YOU AT THE BAR THAT NIGHT?
HAD THE TIMING BEEN A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT, MAYBE SHE'D HAVE MARRIED HIM INSTEAD.
Ha ha!


IF IT HAD HAPPENED ON ONE OF OUR REGULAR DRINKING NIGHTS...
I COULD HAVE BEEN THE CHOSEN ONE...!!
I want to leech off of a pretty woman, too!
WHAAT...?

NO. NOT ONLY THAT, BUT...
Clench

UM...
IT'S NOT LIKE I'D BE FINE WITH JUST ANYONE.
HUH...?


ISHIMURA-SAN WANTS TO BECOME A DIVORCÉE. SHE'D DIVORCE YOU IN NO TIME.
...ACTUALLY, DIVORCE MIGHT BE IMMINENT FOR ME TOO...
OH, I SEE.

I CHOSE KIRISHIMA-KUN FOR WHO HE IS...

I MARRIED HIM BECAUSE HE'S SPECIAL.

DOES THAT MEAN...

YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DIVORCE HER?

WELL... AFTER ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED, I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD THINK THINGS THROUGH BEFORE MAKING THAT SORT OF DECISION.

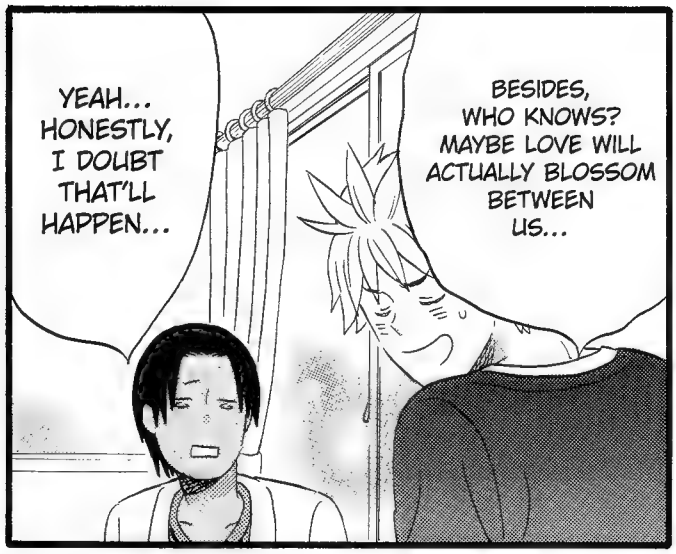
Hmm...

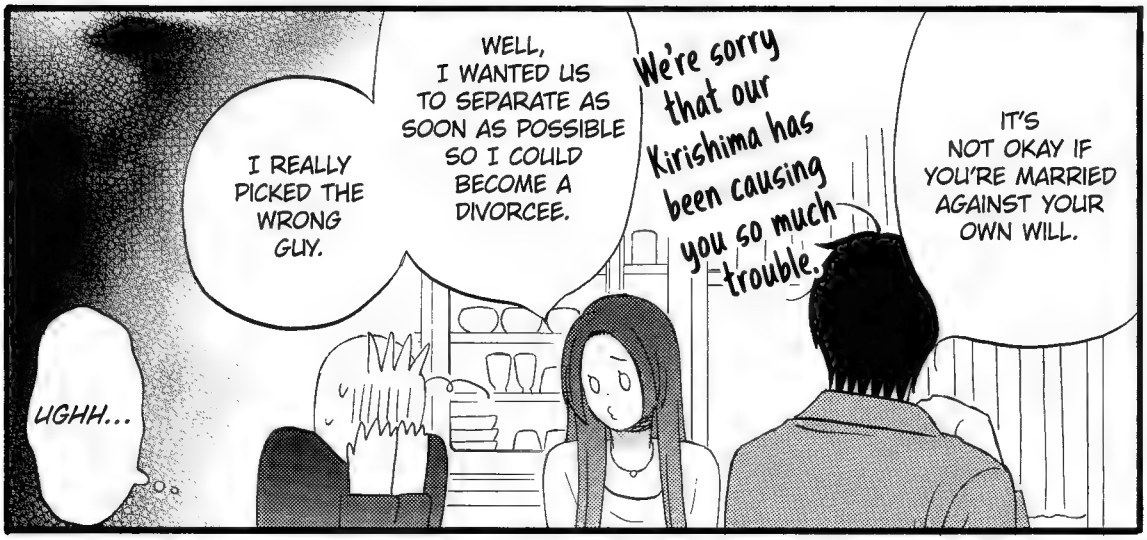
FEW MEN WOULD BE CARELESS ENOUGH TO SIGN A MARRIAGE REGISTRATION FORM, NO MATTER HOW DRUNK THEY WERE.

Oh.

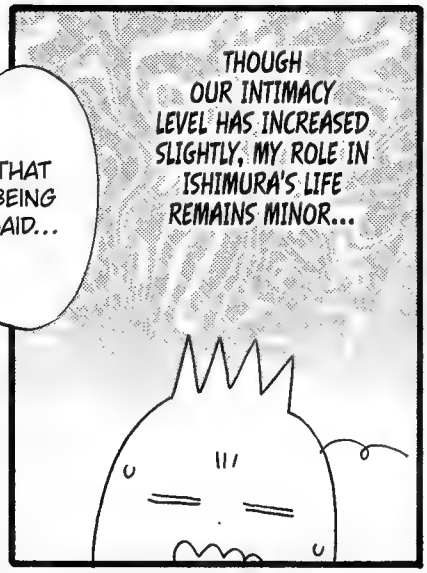
OF COURSE...

ARE YOU FINE WITH STAYING MARRIED TO KIRISHIMA LIKE THIS, ISHIMURA-SAN?
HM?


YEAH... HONESTLY, I DOUBT THAT'LL HAPPEN...
BESIDES, WHO KNOWS? MAYBE LOVE WILL ACTUALLY BLOSSOM BETWEEN US...


I REALLY PICKED THE WRONG GUY.
WELL, I WANTED US TO SEPARATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO I COULD BECOME A DIVORCEE.
We're sorry that our Kirishima has been causing you so much trouble.
IT'S NOT OKAY IF YOU'RE MARRIED AGAINST YOUR OWN WILL.
UGHH...

LIFE WITH KIRISHIMA-KUN IS HONESTLY NOT SO BAD.

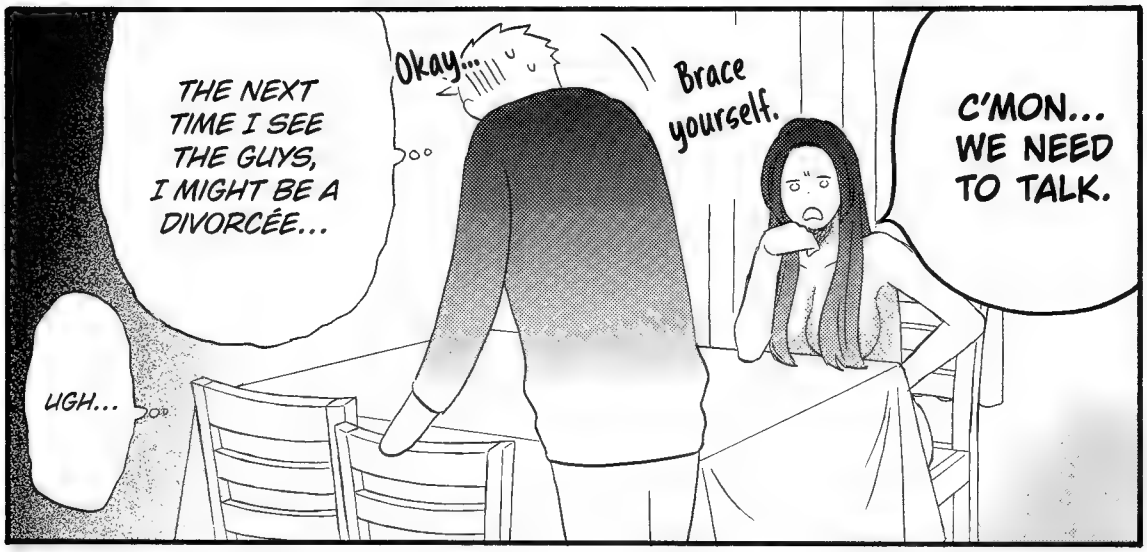

THAT BEING SAID...
THOUGH OUR INTIMACY LEVEL HAS INCREASED SLIGHTLY, MY ROLE IN ISHIMURA'S LIFE REMAINS MINOR...

BUT HE WORKS HARD TO IMPROVE.
HE'S CLUMSY AND THERE'RE STILL THINGS I WISH HE WAS BETTER AT, SO I CAN'T SAY HE'S PERFECT.
HE WAS A HOPELESS COOK AT FIRST, BUT HE IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY.
KIRISHIMA-KUN HAS MADE MY LIFE AT HOME MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE.
HE'S NOT A BOTHER AT ALL. IF ANYTHING, I'M GRATEFUL.
Thanks for today!
See ya!

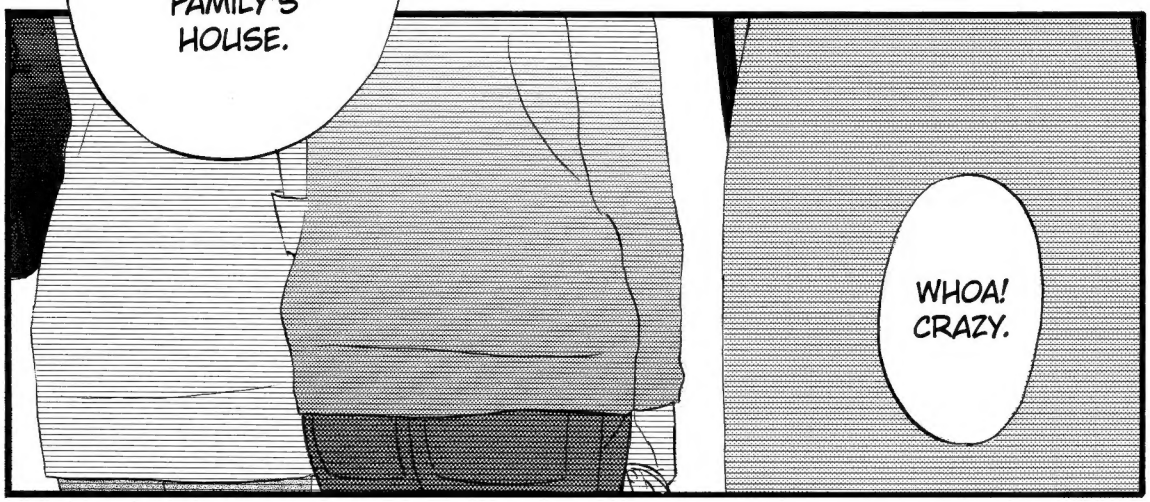
...
Clack
Clack
Tush...

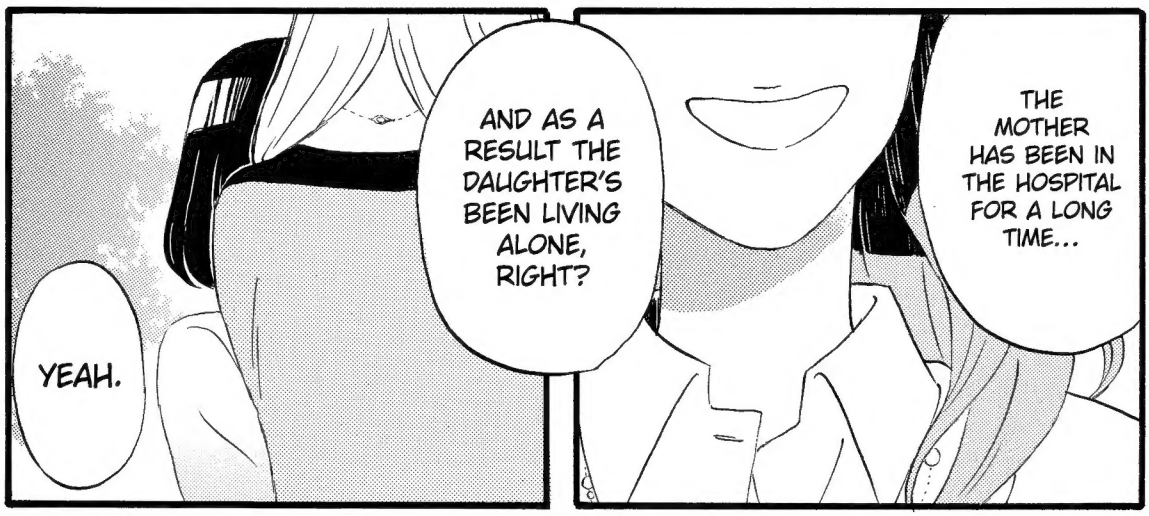
THERE WAS THIS WARM AND COZY ATMOSPHERE IN THE AIR WHEN THEY LEFT.
... HOWEVER.

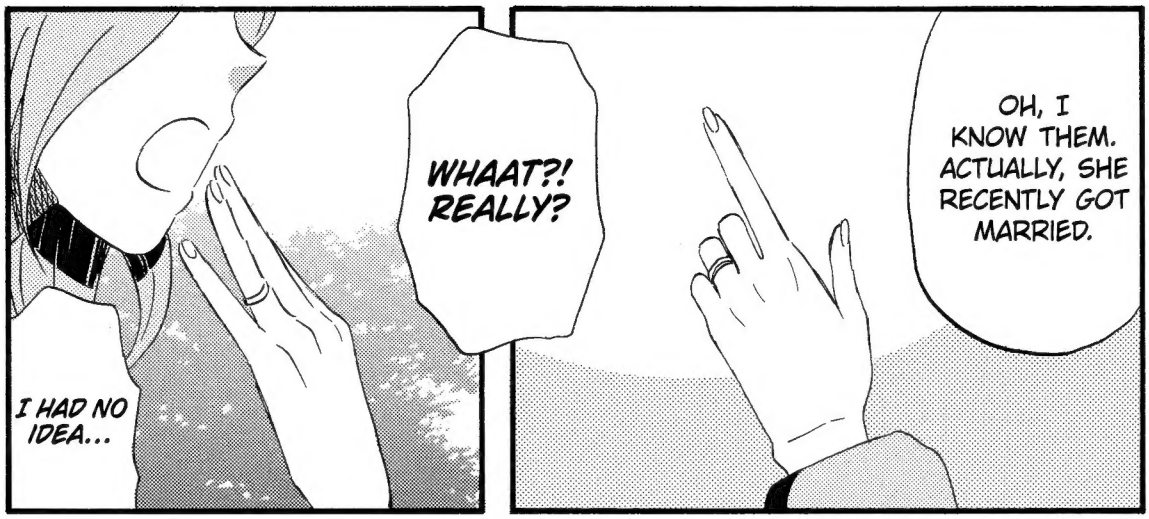
I DUNNO, BUT I FEEL LIKE YA TWO WILL BECOME A NICE COUPLE!


THE NEXT TIME I SEE THE GUYS, I MIGHT BE A DIVORCÉE...
UGH...
Okay...
Brace yourself.
C'MON... WE NEED TO TALK.

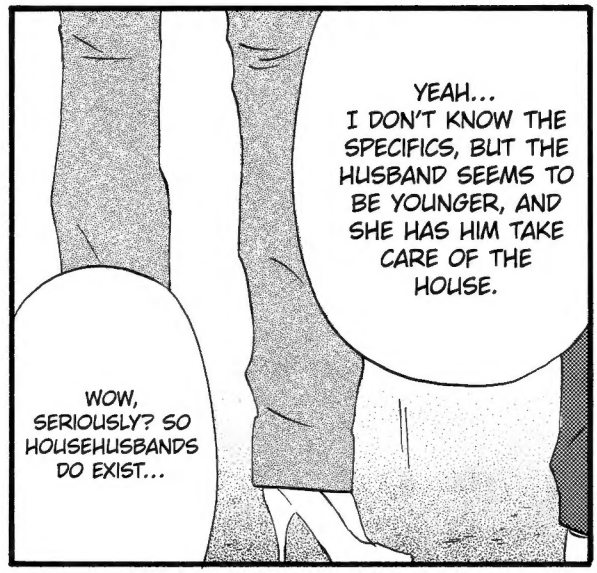
...LOOK AT ALL THOSE MEN COMING OUT OF THE ISHIMURA FAMILY'S HOUSE.

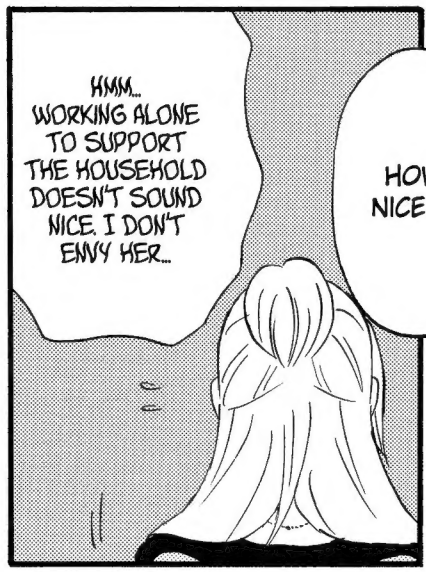

WHOA! CRAZY.

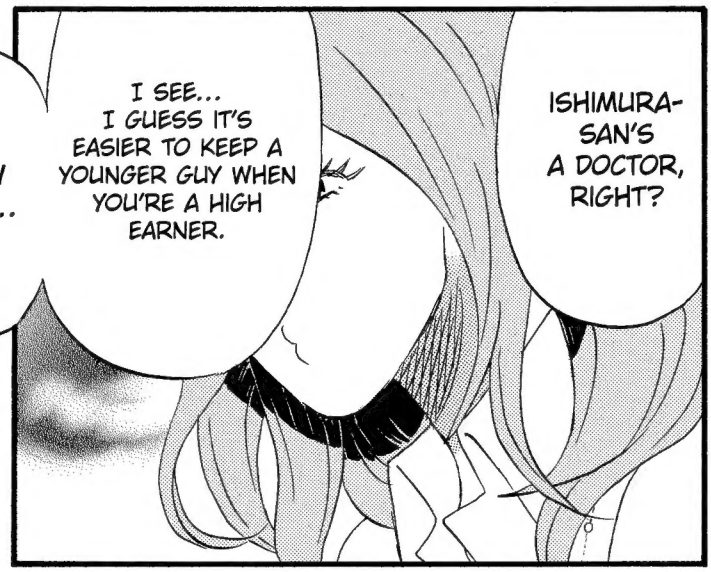

THE MOTHER HAS BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A LONG TIME...
AND AS A RESULT THE DAUGHTER'S BEEN LIVING ALONE, RIGHT?
YEAH.

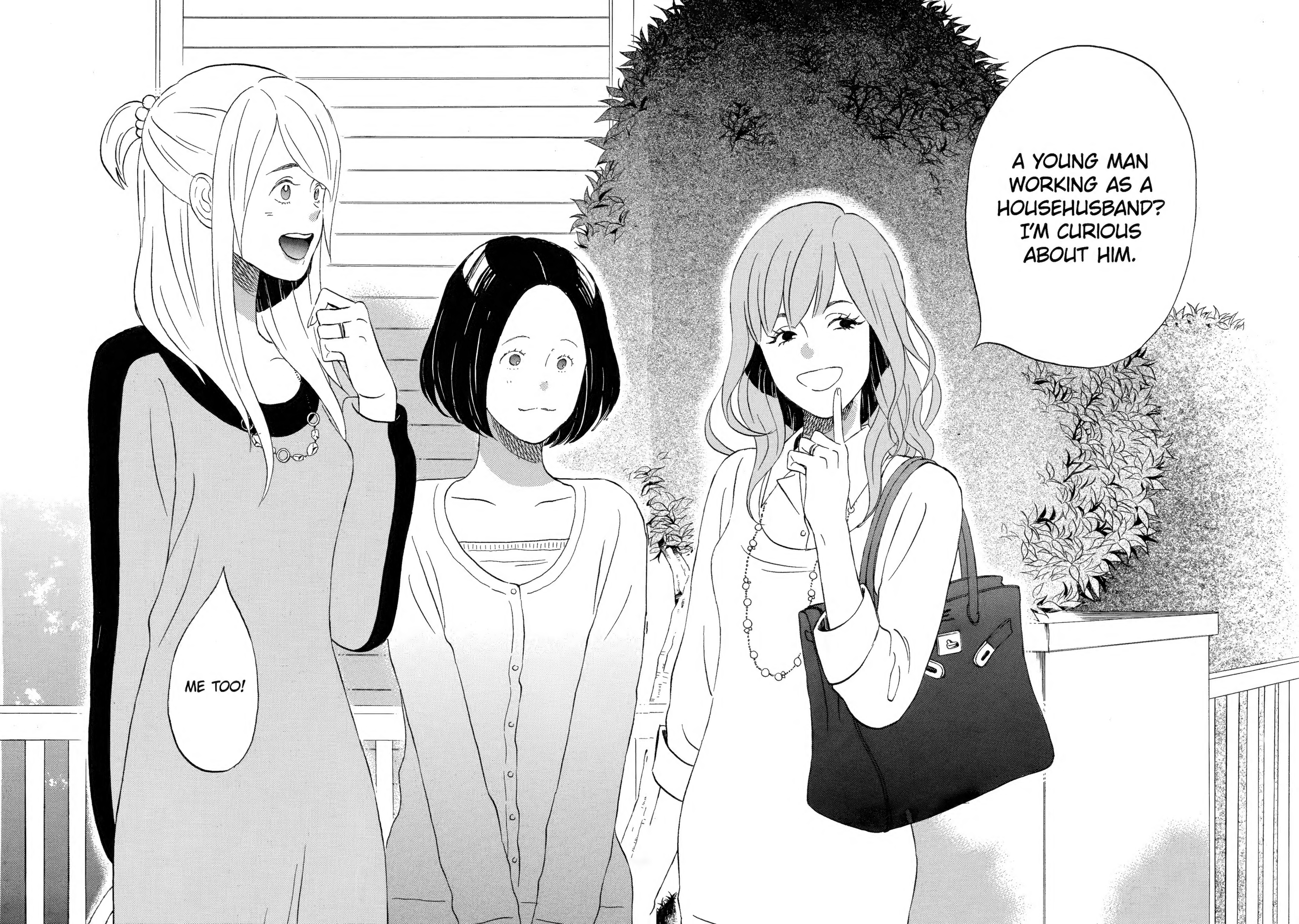

OH, I KNOW THEM. ACTUALLY, SHE RECENTLY GOT MARRIED.
WHAAT?! REALLY?
I HAD NO IDEA...

THEN... WERE THOSE THE HUSBAND'S FRIENDS?
OHH... YEAH, PROBABLY.


YEAH... I DON'T KNOW THE SPECIFICS, BUT THE HUSBAND SEEMS TO BE YOUNGER, AND SHE HAS HIM TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE.
WOW, SERIOUSLY? SO HOUSEHUSBANDS DO EXIST...


HMM... WORKING ALONE TO SUPPORT THE HOUSEHOLD DOESN'T SOUND NICE. I DON'T ENVY HER...
HOW NICE...


I SEE... I GUESS IT'S EASIER TO KEEP A YOUNGER GUY WHEN YOU'RE A HIGH EARNER.
ISHIMURA-SAN'S A DOCTOR, RIGHT?


A YOUNG MAN WORKING AS A HOUSEHUSBAND? I'M CURIOUS ABOUT HIM.
ME TOO!

...IS HE HANDSOME?
HMM... HE'S AVERAGE... NO, MAYBE A BIT ABOVE AVERAGE. HE'S KINDA TALL.
OHH...?

WELL, HE'S OUR NEIGHBOR.
WE'VE GOTTA SAY HI TO HIM.
TOTALLY.